

What is claimed is:

1. A radiation image photographing system comprising a controller, a radiation image reading apparatus and a database section which are connected through a network,

the controller comprising:

an operation control information registering section for registering operation control information of the radiation image reading apparatus in the database section, the operation control information including identification information of the controller, an operational order of the radiation image reading apparatus, and at least one of identification information of a photostimulable phosphor sheet and identification information of the radiation image reading apparatus,

a receiving section for receiving an image which is read out of the photostimulable phosphor sheet by and outputted from the radiation image reading apparatus, and

a display section for displaying the image received by the receiving section thereon,

the database section comprising a storing section for storing the operation control information of the radiation image reading apparatus, and

the radiation image reading apparatus comprising:

an obtaining section for obtaining the operation control information from the database section by using the

identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet set in the radiation image reading apparatus as a search key, and

an output section for outputting the image read out of the photostimulable phosphor sheet based on the operation control information obtained by the obtaining section to the controller determined by the identification information of the controller included in the operation control information.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the obtaining section of the radiation image reading apparatus obtains the operation control information from the database section by using the identification information of the radiation image reading apparatus as the search key upon a search order of the database section by the controller, and makes the radiation image reading apparatus operable based on the operation control information.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the radiation image reading apparatus further comprises a status information registering section for registering at least one of a progress state of operation, success or failure of the operation, and a reason of failure of the operation as status information in the database section when the radiation image reading apparatus executes the operation

based on the operation control information, and

the radiation image reading apparatus registers the status information in the database section and gives the controller the search order of the database section.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the radiation image reading apparatus further comprises a status information registering section for registering at least one of a progress state of operation, success or failure of the operation, and a reason of failure of the operation as status information in the database section when the radiation image reading apparatus executes the operation based on the operation control information according to the search order by the controller, and

the radiation image reading apparatus registers the status information in the database section and gives the controller the search order of the database section.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet includes barcode information attached to at least one of the photostimulable phosphor sheet and a cassette covering the photostimulable phosphor sheet.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet is

registration turn to the database section by the controller, instead of the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the operation control information includes a reading order of the photostimulable phosphor sheet to the radiation image reading apparatus and a condition for reading the image from the photostimulable phosphor sheet, the condition including at least one of reading resolution, reading sensitivity, output density gradation and a data processing type.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the operation control information includes at least one of a start-up order, a halt order, an order of generating a correction coefficient for a data processing and an order of changing an operational program, to the radiation image reading apparatus.

9. The system of claim 3, wherein the status information includes a status indicating that the radiation image reading apparatus already has searched the operation control information as the progress situation of the operation.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the operation control information registering section can register only operation control information including identification information of a photostimulable phosphor sheet different from the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet included in the operation control information which has already been registered in the database section based on the status information.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the obtaining section can obtain operation control information other than the operation control information which already has been searched by the radiation image reading apparatus from the database section based on the status information.

12. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of controllers,

wherein the database section is incorporated in at least one of the plurality of controllers.

13. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of controllers and a plurality of database sections,

wherein the plurality of database sections are incorporated in a number of controllers among the plurality of controllers corresponding to a number of the plurality

of database sections, and

the plurality of database sections exchange and share database information in a predetermined cycle.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein when a database section operating as a master of the plurality of database sections breaks down, any one other than the database section of the plurality of database sections operates as a master.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein the database section is incorporated in the radiation image reading apparatus.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the database section is incorporated in an external apparatus other than the controller nor the radiation image reading apparatus.

17. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of database sections,

wherein the plurality of database sections are incorporated in a plurality of external apparatuses corresponding to a number of the plurality of database sections other than the controller nor the radiation image reading apparatus, and

the plurality of database sections exchange and share

database information in a predetermined cycle.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein when a database section operating as a master of the plurality of database sections breaks down, any one other than the database section of the plurality of database sections operates as a master.

19. A radiation image photographing method applicable for a radiation image photographing system comprising a controller, a radiation image reading apparatus and a database section which are connected through a network, the method comprising:

registering operation control information of the radiation image reading apparatus in the database section, the operation control information including identification information of the controller, an operational order of the radiation image reading apparatus, and at least one of identification information of a photostimulable phosphor sheet and identification information of the radiation image reading apparatus,

outputting an image read out of the photostimulable phosphor sheet by the radiation image reading apparatus from the radiation image reading apparatus to the controller,

displaying the image on the controller,

storing the operation control information of the radiation image reading apparatus in the database section,

obtaining the operation control information from the database section by using the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet set in the radiation image reading apparatus as a search key, and

outputting the image read out of the photostimulable phosphor sheet based on the obtained operation control information to a controller determined by the identification information of the controller included in the operation control information.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the obtaining the operation control information from the database section includes obtaining the operation control information from the database section by using the identification information of the radiation image reading apparatus as the search key upon a search order of the database section, and making the radiation image reading apparatus operable based on the operation control information.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising:  
registering at least one of a progress state of operation, success or failure of the operation, and a reason of failure of the operation as status information in the database section when the radiation image reading



apparatus executes the operation based on the operation control information, and

registering the status information in the database section and giving the controller the search order of the database section.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

registering at least one of a progress state of operation, success or failure of the operation, and a reason of failure of the operation as status information in the database section when the radiation image reading apparatus executes the operation based on the operation control information according to the search order by the controller, and

registering the status information in the database section and giving the controller the search order of the database section.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet includes barcode information attached to at least one of the photostimulable phosphor sheet and a cassette covering the photostimulable phosphor sheet.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor

sheet is registration turn to the database section by the controller, instead of the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein the operation control information includes a reading order of the photostimulable phosphor sheet to the radiation image reading apparatus and a condition for reading the image from the photostimulable phosphor sheet, the condition including at least one of reading resolution, reading sensitivity, output density gradation and a data processing type.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein the operation control information includes at least one of a start-up order, a halt order, an order of generating a correction coefficient for a data processing and an order of changing an operational program, to the radiation image reading apparatus.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein the status information includes a status indicating that the radiation image reading apparatus already has searched the operation control information as the progress situation of the operation.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the registering identification information of the controller, an operational order of the radiation image reading apparatus, and at least one of identification information of a photostimulable phosphor sheet and identification information of the radiation image reading apparatus as operation control information in the database section is possible only when operation control information includes identification information of a photostimulable phosphor sheet different from the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet included in the operation control information which already has been registered in the database section based on the status information.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the obtaining the operation control information from the database section is possible only when operation control information is other than the operation control information which already has been searched by the radiation image reading apparatus based on the status information.